Environmental Toolbox

General Awareness Training Module

Commanding Officer

Environmental Considerations in Operations (ECOps)

Sound environmental management during military operations enables the mission by enhancing force protection and reducing the logistical burden on the force

Overview of This Briefing

- Environmental Considerations in Operations (ECOps) and its benefits
- Environmental planning considerations throughout a deployment
- Commander responsibilities
- What the environmental officer (EO) does for you!

Definition

Environmental Considerations in Operations are measures or processes put in place to avoid or minimize potentially adverse environmental impacts during military operations.

Focus areas addressed in this toolbox*:

- Solid waste management
- Hazardous material and hazardous waste management
- Water and wastewater management
- Spill prevention and response planning
- Natural resource and cultural property protection

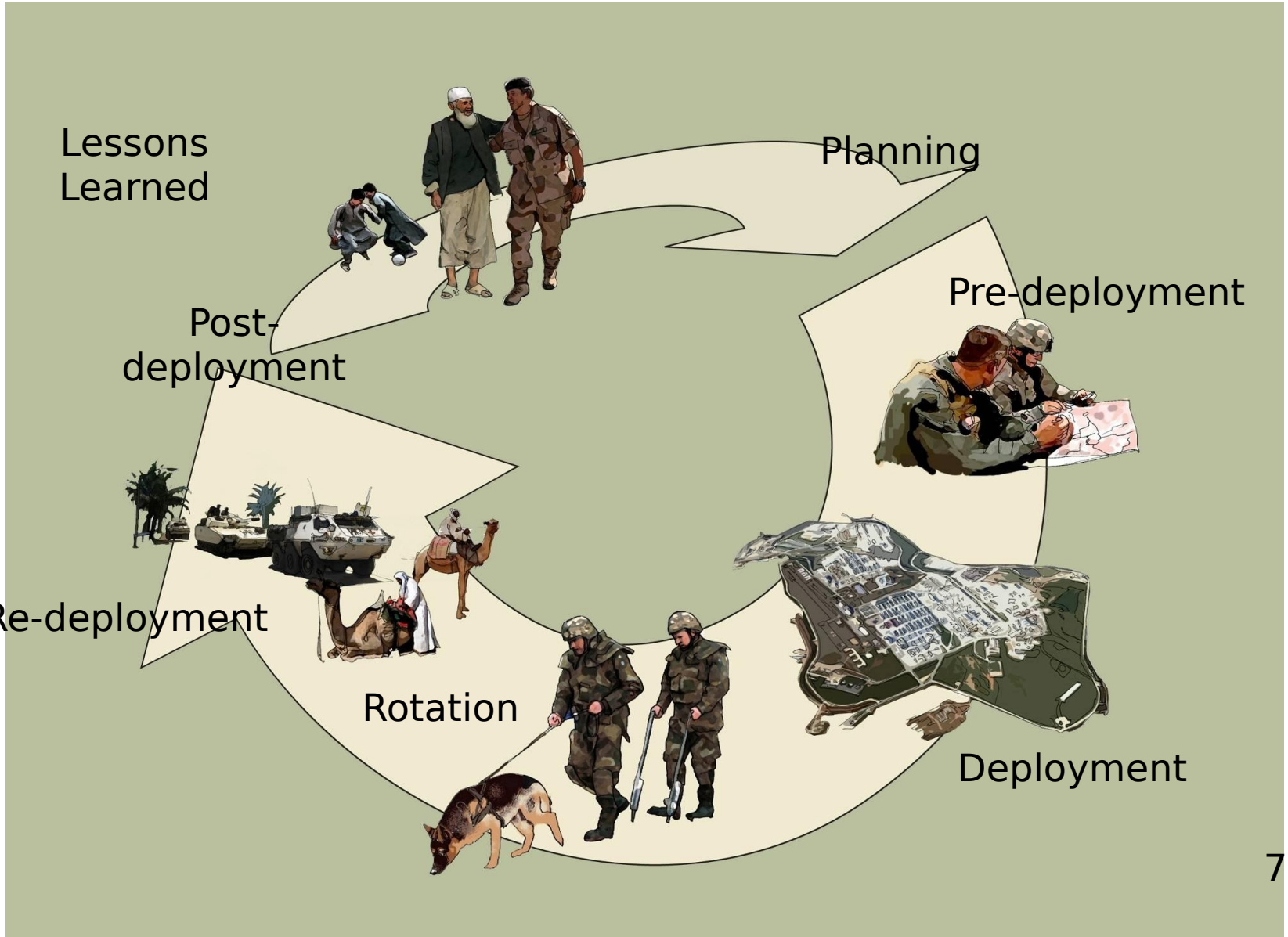
ECOps helps you to use your resources in a wise manner to better support your mission!

**Note*: while energy use is not addressed specifically in this toolbox, it is important for everyone to use energy responsibly!

ECOps as a Force Multiplier

- Enhances force protection
  - Protects soldier health
  - Reduces risk to supply convoys
- Reduces logistical requirements and costs
- Reduces legal and financial liability
- Promotes sustainability
  - For the current mission
  - For future deployments
  - For the host nation
- Potential geopolitical impacts
- Wins hearts and minds (psychological operations, or PSYOPS)

ECOps in the Life Cycle of Military Operations



Commander Responsibilities

- Understand and enforce the legal requirements and responsibilities
- Provide command emphasis on environmental considerations through the lifecycle of operations, from strategic planning to after action reports (AARs)
- Chair the Environmental Management Board (EMB) to ensure policies, priorities and resources are available for environmental management (manpower, money, equipment)

Laws and Regulations

- International laws and treaties
- Agreements pertaining to deploying forces such as Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs)
- Own nation’s laws
- Host nation laws
- UN, NATO, EU, or coalition command standards – who controls the space?
- Mission regulations

Compare and understand what governs the current operation.
Be prepared to implement the highest applicable environmental standard.

Strategic Level Planning

- The Operation Plan (OPLAN) should contain an environmental annex. It should be based on an analysis of:
- The legal framework
- Critical environmental aspects that could constrain the effective achievement of the mission
- Critical environmental aspects that could affect force protection or increase financial risks
- Your command environmental guidance should be based on the OPLAN’s environmental annex

Environmental Management Board

- The EMB advises the Commander in establishing policies, procedures, practices, priorities and overall direction for environmental management requirements
- The Commander's responsibility is to chair the EMB
- Suggested EMB participants:

Environmental Officer	Legal
Medical	Engineering
Logistics	Real estate
Contracting officer	Public affairs
Financial	Key equipment/plant operators
Civil-military	Troop Contributing Nations

What the EO Does for You (1 of 2)

- Advises commander on environmental issues and solutions for the lifecycle of the operation
- Integrates environmental considerations into base camp master plan by:
  - Conducting environmental risk assessments
  - Completing Environmental Baseline Survey and associated updates and reports
  - Coordinating with engineers to site utilities, materials and waste management operations
  - Providing contingency planning for surges and drawdowns
- Facilitates Environmental Management Board (EMB)

What the EO Does for You (2 of 2)

- Provides environmental training and awareness
- Establishes environmental reporting procedures and maintains environmental records
- Ensures availability and serviceability of environmental management supplies and equipment
- Integrates environmental considerations into contracting process and documentation
- Maintains spill prevention and response plan
- Oversees and coordinates inspections and implements corrective actions
- Manages environmental closure actions

Conclusion

Command emphasis on environmental considerations throughout the life-cycle of the military operation is critical. It will help:

- Support the mission
- Promote force/health protection
- Ensure legal compliance
- Manage resources wisely
- Protect the environment
- Enhance the image and reputation of your nation and its forces